

## FLORIDA AT THE FAIR.

## THE MATERIAL PROGRESS OF THE STATE.

ITS GROWTH FROM NORTHERN IMMIGRATION—THE ALLIGATOR INDUSTRY—THE FLORIDA CHAUTAUQUA.

[A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

New-Orleans, Jan. 8.—Florida's an exception to the Gulf States in general in that its white population is increasing in greater proportion than its colored population. This is due to immigration from the North. In the last census period the colored people increased 38 per cent and the white people 49 per cent. If the same proportionate increase has continued the population of the State now reaches 332,000 as compared with 268,000 in 1880, and there is an excess of 24,000 in the white over the colored inhabitants. That is the way General W. H. Sebring, the Florida Commissioner to the Exposition, figures upon the State's population. He says that Florida is becoming more popular than ever with Northern people, and that after a long sleep existence it is making rapid strides in the way of utilizing its valuable raw materials and in diversifying its industries.

To show what is being done is the aim of the attractive exhibit at the Exposition, although the Legislature not having been in session no appropriation has yet been made to meet the expense of a proper display. One conspicuous object in the exhibit is a large alligator. Visitors generally look upon that as something that should be hidden from view in representing the products of a State. But it represents an important industry. Alligator skins are manufactured into all kinds of fancy and useful articles made of leather. One firm shipped 70,000 alligator skins from Florida last year. Oranges, of course, are conspicuous in the exhibit. There are about one dozen varieties of oranges represented, from the little red mandarin to the huge yellow grape fruit and shaddock, besides other tropical fruit. The orange crop last year amounted to about 1,000,000 boxes, and the average price received was \$2 a box. That is only half the usual price of other years. But the fruit spoiled so rapidly for some unknown reason that it had to be sold cheap. It can be delivered in New-York from interior points in forty-six hours, whereas formerly several days were required. Orange culture has been extending so rapidly that the acreage in cultivation has been decreasing. In average years a choice orange grove will afford a net profit of \$600 an acre. That requires groves in full bearing. The danger from frost which kills young trees, and the increasing crops, have rather given a set-back to the cultivation of new groves.

There is a good display of cocoanuts, which is a growing industry on the islands near Key West. Over 300,000 nuts were planted last year. The sponge interest in that section brings in a revenue of from \$120,000 to \$175,000 annually, and the tobacco trade, which has built up a city at Key West with millions of invested capital, is well known in connection with the recent treaty discussion. While the supply of food fishes off the Long Island and New-England coast seems to be decreasing, the reverse is true of Florida, where the catch is annually increasing. Corn and oats and other cereals, various fruits and vegetables, are included in the display. There are valuable ones found in Florida, some specimens of which are in the exhibits. A large piece of land which assays 50 per cent iron represents a mine which will be worked out.

The increase in railroad building is one thing that has followed Northern immigration. In four years 1,000 miles of railroad have been built in the State. The Savannah, Florida and Western Railroad is on exhibition a relief map twenty-five feet in length showing the entire peninsula with its present railroad and waterway system. It is a skillful and interesting piece of work, and presents at a glance all the geographical features of the State. The forests of Florida are one of its sources of wealth, and are 200 varieties of wood on exhibition. Gated logs are shown to have been cut by hand, and unpeeled, and foliage of every variety. This exhibit, novel in design, is the most instructive of its kind at the Exposition.

The exhibit is to include a house made of palm trees without the use of nails or screws, and one made of yellow pine in modern style. The St. John Boosa as trustee of the University of the City of Jacksonville, has a small room allotted him, and he is to speak on the subject of education in the South.

At the request of Mr. Hammel, the hearing of the case between him and others. Passed pursuant to his application, agt. Samuel Hill and others. No. 104—Benjamin Borthwick, Complainant of Patents against Hill and others. Passed pursuant to his application, agt. Samuel Hill and others.

No. 105—H. H. C. Cooke, appellant, agt. Hill and others. Appeal from the Circuit Court of the Northern District of Iowa. Dismissed for stipulation, cert. to file to pay costs.

No. 106—John H. Arnold, and others, appellants, agt. Washington Willian. Argument concluded.

No. 107—Archibald Voss, appellant, agt. Charles J. Fish.

Argued. The Farmers Loan and Trust Company, appellants, agt. Hill and others. Appeal from the Circuit Court of the Northern District of Illinois. Dismissed for stipulation, cert. to file to pay costs.

No. 108—C. Avery Stevens, appellant, agt. the Chicago, New-Albans Railroad Company and others. Appeal from the Northern District of Illinois. Dismissed for stipulation, cert. to file to pay costs.

No. 109—John H. Arnold, and others, plaintiffs in error, agt. the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Attracted for defendant in error, and submitted for plaintiff in error.

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